

ClaimsWhat is claimed is:

- 1 1. In a computer controlled user interactive display  
2 system, a display interface implementation for enabling  
3 an interactive user to modify selected items on a display  
4 screen crowded with normally modifiable items comprising:  
5 means for modifying said normally modifiable items;  
6 means for rendering a set of said items  
7 unmodifiable; and  
8 means for enabling the modifying of a selected item  
9 in said set of unmodifiable items.
- 1 2. The computer controlled user interactive display  
2 system of claim 1 wherein said normally modifiable items  
3 are icons.
- 1 3. The computer controlled user interactive display  
2 system of claim 2 wherein said set of unmodifiable icons  
3 is a cluster of adjacent icons.
- 1 4. The computer controlled user interactive display  
2 system of claim 3 wherein said means for enabling the  
3 modifying of a selected icon in said set includes means  
4 for pointing to said selected icon.
- 1 5. The computer controlled user interactive display  
2 system of claim 4 wherein said means for modifying moves  
3 said icon.

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1 6. The computer controlled user interactive display  
2 system of claim 4 wherein said means for modifying  
3 resizes said icon.

1 7. The computer controlled user interactive display  
2 system of claim 4 wherein said means for rendering said  
3 set of a cluster of icons unmodifiable includes means for  
4 circumscribing said cluster of icons.

1 8. The computer controlled user interactive display  
2 system of claim 7 wherein said means for circumscribing  
3 said cluster of icons includes pointing means.

1 9. The computer controlled user interactive display  
2 system of claim 3 further including means for rendering  
3 said set of icons to normally modifiable after said  
4 selected icon has been modified.

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1 10. A method for enabling an interactive user to modify  
2 selected items on a display screen crowded with normally  
3 modifiable items in a computer controlled user  
4 interactive display system comprising:

5 means for rendering a set of said items  
6 unmodifiable; and

7 means for enabling the modifying of a selected item  
8 in said set of unmodifiable items.

1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein said normally  
2 modifiable items are icons.

1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein said set of  
2 unmodifiable icons is a cluster of adjacent icons.

1 13. The method of claim 12 wherein said step of enabling  
2 the modifying of a selected icon in said set includes the  
3 step of pointing to said selected icon.

1 14. The method of claim 13 wherein said step of  
2 modifying said icon moves said icon.

1 15. The method of claim 13 wherein said step of  
2 modifying said icon resizes said icon.

1 16. The method of claim 13 wherein said step of  
2 rendering said set of a cluster of icons unmodifiable  
3 includes the step of circumscribing said cluster of  
4 icons.

1 17. The method of claim 16 wherein said step of  
2 circumscribing said cluster of icons includes the step of  
3 pointing to icons in said cluster.

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- 1 18. The method of claim 12 further including the step of
- 2 rendering said set of icons to normally modifiable icons
- 3 after said selected icon has been modified.

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1 19. A computer program having program code included on a  
2 computer readable medium for enabling an interactive user  
3 to modify selected items on a display screen crowded with  
4 normally modifiable items in a computer controlled user  
5 interactive display systems comprising:

6 means for modifying said normally modifiable items;  
7 means for rendering a set of said items  
8 unmodifiable; and  
9 means for enabling the modifying of a selected item  
10 in said set of unmodifiable items.

1 20. The computer program of claim 19 wherein said  
2 normally modifiable items are icons.

1 21. The computer program of claim 20 wherein said set of  
2 unmodifiable icons is a cluster of adjacent icons.

1 22. The computer program of claim 21 wherein said means  
2 for enabling the modifying of a selected icon in said set  
3 includes means for pointing to said selected icon.

1 23. The computer program of claim 22 wherein said means  
2 for modifying moves said icon.

1 24. The computer program of claim 22 wherein said means  
2 for modifying resizes said icon.

1 25. The computer program of claim 22 wherein said means  
2 for rendering said set of a cluster of icons unmodifiable  
3 includes means for circumscribing said cluster of icons.

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1 26. The computer program of claim 25 wherein said means  
2 for circumscribing said cluster of icons includes  
3 pointing means.

1 27. The computer program of claim 21 further including  
2 means for rendering said set of icons to normally  
3 modifiable after said selected icon has been modified.

FOUO 80-4942450